

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

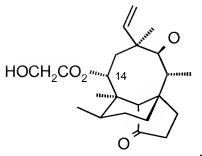
Claims 1- 33 (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A method for preparing one or more crystallized pleuromutilins comprising the steps of:

- a) culturing a pleuromutilins-producing microorganism in a liquid culture medium;
- b) extracting pleuromutilins from the unfiltered culture medium with a water immiscible organic solvent which is 4-methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK);
- c) concentrating the extracted pleuromutilins;
- d) directly crystallizing the pleuromutilins from MIBK ~~and~~ using a miscible non polar solvent which is heptane.

35. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein the extracted pleuromutilins of step b (~~step b~~) or the concentrated pleuromutilins of step c (~~step c~~) are decolorized using activated carbon.

36. (currently amended) A- The method according to claim 34 for preparing pleuromutilin:



37. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein the pleuromutilins-producing microorganism is a *Clitopilus* species, an *Octojuga* species, a *Gerronema* species, or a *Psathyrella* species.

38. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 37 wherein the pleuromutilins-producing microorganism is *Clitopilus passeckerianus* NRRL 3100/DSM 1602, *Clitopilus passeckerianus* CBS 299.35, *Clitopilus passeckerianus* CBS 330.85, *Clitopilus pinsitus* CBS 623.70, *Clitopilus hobsonii* CBS 270.36, *Gerronema josserandii* CBS 309.36, or *Psathyrella subatrata* CBS 325.39.

39. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 38 wherein the pleuromutilins-producing microorganism is *Clitopilus passeckerianus* NRRL 3100.

40. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein the extraction is conducted at about 10°C to about 50°C.

41. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein the pH of the liquid culture medium ~~aqueous solution~~ prior to extraction is in the range pH 6 to 8.

42. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein a ratio of 4:1 to 1:4 equivalent volume of MIBK to unfiltered culture medium is used for the extraction.

43. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein the pleuromutilins in step c are concentrated in ~~concentration of the~~ MIBK to a concentration ~~of solution used for crystallization is from~~ 20% to 45% w/w.

44. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 43 wherein the pleuromutilins in step c are concentrated in concentration of the MIBK to a concentration of solution used for crystallization is from 35% to 40% w/w.

45. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein the initial temperature of the MIBK containing solution used for recrystallisation in step d) is from 45 °C to 60 °C, followed by cooling to from 25 °C to 35 °C.

46. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 45 wherein the initial temperature is from 50 °C to 55 °C, followed by cooling to approximately 30 °C.

47. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein 1 to 1.5 volumes of heptane is added in step d.

48. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 34 wherein the crystallised pleuromutilins which are the product of step d are further purified by recrystallisation.

49. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 48 wherein mutilin 14-acetate is selectively removed from the crystallised pleuromutilins by recrystallisation from with ethyl acetate and heptane.

50. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 49 wherein the concentration of pleuromutilins in ethyl acetate and heptane as recrystallization solvent used for recrystallisation is from 20% to 40% w/w.

51. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 45 wherein the initial temperature is from 45 °C to 50 °C, followed by cooling to from 15 °C to 25 °C.

52. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 51 wherein the MIBK and heptane mixture of step d is cooled followed by heptane addition and further cooling to 0 °C to 5 °C after heptane addition.

53. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 48 wherein mutilin 14-acetate is selectively removed from the crystallised pleuromutilins by recrystallisation ~~with~~ from MIBK and heptane.

54. (currently amended) A The method according to claim 53 wherein the concentration of pleuromutilins in MIBK and heptane as recrystallization solvent ~~used for recrystallisation~~ is from 20% to 45% w/w.

55. (canceled)